

Annual Report  
ON THE  
HEALTH  
OF THE  
Whitby Urban District  
FOR THE YEAR 1921.

By J. G. ROSS, M.B., C.M.

TOGETHER WITH THE  
Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent,  
O. E. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Royal Sanitary Inst.,  
Diplomé in Meat and Food Inspection, etc.,



WHITBY :

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1922.



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Whitby for the year 1921.

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*To the Chairman and Members of  
The Whitby Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1921 on the Health of the District. It is drawn up in accordance with the instructions laid down in Circular 269 of the Ministry of Health, which states also that Medical Officers of Health are asked to prepare an Annual Report of a simple character, and that fuller and more detailed Reports (referred to as Survey Reports) will be required at intervals of not more than five years. The Annual Reports for 1919 and 1920 are treated as constituting the first of the series of Survey Reports.

## **GENERAL STATISTICS.**

1. **Area.**—The Area of the District in Acres (exclusive of the area covered by water) is 2,049 a. 4 r.

2. **Population.**—The Census of 1911 showed a Population of 11,139, and in 1921 a Population of 12,512. The Registrar General points out that as the taking of the 1921 Census was postponed from April to June, and as in the month of June a considerable influx of visitors must have taken place, the actual figure obtained must be corrected to show the true Population. He estimates the correct figure at 11,910, and bases his returns on that figure. Though this estimate may appear to be somewhat empirical, I believe it to be substantially correct, and I accept his estimate for statistical purposes in this Report.

3. Number of inhabited houses (1921) ... 2,903
4. Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)—  
Cannot be ascertained.
5. Rateable Value £53,910. Assessable Value £48,520.
6. Sum represented by a Penny Rate £202, less  
allowances, levied half-yearly.

**Births.**—247 Births were notified during the year—134 males and 113 females. Of these 8 males and 8 females were illegitimate.

The nett birth rate based on the population figure of 11,910 is 20·738 per 1000.

The illegitimate rate is 6·39 per 100 Births, as against 5·53 in the preceding year.

The following table shows the number of Births for the last 5 years :—

1916	...	194		1917	...	153		1919	...	198
				1918	...	180		1920	...	325

For purposes of comparison I append the provisional birth rate figures throughout the country :—

England and Wales	...	...	22·4 per 1000 total pop'l'n
96 great towns, including London, population over 50,000	...	23·3	„ „
148 smaller towns, populations 20,000—50,000	...	22·7	„ „
London	...	22·3	„ „

It will be seen that the Whitby rate is below these figures.

**Deaths.**—The number of Deaths occurring in the District is 150, of which 134 were residents and 16 were strangers. 6 deaths of residents occurred outside the District, thus 140 deaths of residents occurred during the year—56 males and 84 females.

Taking the Registrar General's estimate of 11,910 population, the General Death Rate for the year is 11·75 per 1000 inhabitants. The corresponding figure for 1920 was 14·9.

The death rate for the quarters of the year, not including inward transfers, is as follows :—

1st Qr.		2nd Qr.		3rd Qr.		4th Qr.
3.778	...	3.022	...	2.855	...	2.099

For the sake of comparison the numbers of deaths for the five preceding years are shown :—

1916	...	167		1918	...	197		1920	...	159
1917	...	162		1919	...	193				

**Infantile Mortality.**—There were 16 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 15 legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

The death rate per 1000 births is: legitimate 60.728, illegitimate 4.048. Total 64.776.

In 1920 the total rate was 70.9 per 1000 births.

The following table gives the Causes of Death, using the Registrar General's classification of causes:—

					Males	Females	Total
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	0	0	0
3.	Measles...	...	...	...	0	0	0
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Diphtheria or Croup	...	...	...	0	1	1
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	0	2	2
8.	Eucephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	3	4
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	1	4	5
12.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	5	13	18
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	1	3
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	5	6	11
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	7	9	16
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	2	2	4
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	2	7
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	3	5	8
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	0	1
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	1	0	1
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)	...	...	...	0	2	2
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	0	2	2
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	0	0	0
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1	4	5
26.	Puerperal Sepsis...	...	...	...	0	0	0
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	0	0	0



28.	Congenital Debility and Malformation, premature birth	...	...	5	2	7
29.	Suicide	...	...	0	1	1
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	5	2	7
31.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	7	20	27
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	2	0	2
Total				53	81	134

On looking over this table it will be noticed that the number of deaths from Cancer is greater than from all the notifiable diseases (which include Tuberculosis and Pneumonia). So little is known about the actual causation of Cancer, whether it be due to infection or contagion, or incidental to certain houses and groups of houses, or caused by some other agency unknown, that it seems to me regrettable that it is not included under the notifiable diseases. I am aware that there are difficulties attending the notification of malignant disease (or, more accurately, diseases), but notification would help to focus attention on it, and would perhaps lead to greater efforts to combat it.

The following deaths occurred in our Public Institutions:  
 Union Workhouse ... 18 (of whom 5 were strangers)  
 Cottage Hospital ... 9 „ 4 „

The Ages at which deaths occurred are as follows:—

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total
Under 1 year	5	7	0	4	16
Between 1 and 5 years	3	3	2	0	8
Between 5 and 15 years	1	1	2	0	4
Between 15 and 25 years	1	1	1	0	3
Between 25 and 65 years	12	11	9	9	41
Over 65 years	22	13	16	11	62
	44	36	30	24	134

The Whitby death rate compares favourably with the provincial figures throughout the country as shown below:—

	Deaths under 1 year. per 1000 population.	per 1000 births.
England and Wales	12.1	83
96 great towns (including London)		
population over 50,000...	12.3	87
148 smaller towns, populations		
20,000 to 50,000	11.3	84
London	12.4	80
Whitby	11.75	64.77

## Notifiable Diseases during the year 1921—

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	29	28	1
Scarlet Fever ...	6	6	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	...	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	...	0
Pneumonia ...	18	...	8
Erysipelas ...	5	...	0
Malaria ...	7	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	0
Tuberculosis—			
Pulmonary ...	21 { male - 9 female - 12	...	5
Non-Pulmonary ...	15 { male - 9 female - 6	...	6
Total	102	...	20

The single case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was treated at home, and vision was unimpaired.

The case of Diphtheria which was not admitted to Hospital was too ill to remove when first seen, and died.

Proportion of T.B. deaths to T.B. notifications—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—5 deaths, all notified.

Other forms of Tuberculosis—6 deaths, 4 not notified

## Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

### Professional Nursing in the Home—

- (a) GENERAL.—This is admirably carried out by the District Nurse, Nurse Atkinson, who is employed by the District Nursing Association. This is a private, voluntary association, and it has no connection with the Local Authority.
- (b) MATERNITY.—The official Midwife, Nurse Robbins, is kept busy, and gives complete satisfaction.
- (c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—No provision is made.

**Midwives.**—One official Midwife is employed and subsidised by the Public Health Authority.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres.**—A Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre is held in Grape Lane. Session every Tuesday, from 2 to 4 p.m. This is a consultation centre only, and no treatment is advised. It is provided by arrangement between the Urban District Council and the County Council (referred to elsewhere in the Report).

**SCHOOL CLINICS.**—These are held on the same premises as the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre, at such times as the School Medical Officer directs.

**DAY NURSERIES.**—No provision made.

**TUBERCULOSIS CENTRE.**—Ditto.

**VENEREAL CENTRE.**—Ditto.

### **Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.**

1. **Tuberculosis.**—Nil.

2. **Maternity.**—Nil.

3. **Children.**—Nil.

4. **Fever.**—A Fever Hospital is provided by the Urban District Council and the Rural District Council acting in agreement, on farm land belonging to the Urban District Council. It is situated outside the Urban boundary, in Stainsacre Lane, about one and a quarter miles distant from the centre of the town. There are 2 wooden buildings, of 2 wards each, with accommodation for 16 beds and 4 cots. In addition there is an administrative building, one room of which can be used as a ward for 2 beds and 1 cot.

5. **Small-pox.**—There are 2 wooden buildings situated on the above farm land, and isolated from the general fever wards, with accommodation for 10 beds. It has not been needed for many years.

6. **Other.**—Nil.

**Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children.**—Nil.

### **Ambulance facilities—**

(a) **FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.**—A closed horse vehicle is provided. It serves the needs of both Urban and Rural Districts.



- (b) **FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.**—An efficient motor ambulance is provided by voluntary agency, and is stationed at the West Cliff Garage.

## **LABORATORY WORK.**

Specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to the Laboratories of Pathology and Public Health, 6 Harley Street, London. Medical men made free use of these facilities, and many doubtful throat cases were thus definitely diagnosed.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin has been provided free of cost. A good supply is stocked by Mr. Ruff, Chemist, Skinner Street, and the Medical Officer of Health also keeps sufficient to deal with an emergency.

Disinfection of infected premises is carried out under the orders of the Sanitary Inspector.

## **List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health.**

### **Adoptive Acts—**

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

### **Local Acts—**

Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1905.

Whitby Improvement Acts, 1837 to 1841.

Local Government Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Act, 1874.

Local Government Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 7) Act, 1906

Local Government Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 12) Act, 1914.

Electric Lighting Orders Confirmation (No. 8) Act, 1891.

Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act was adopted in 1893, Part V in 1895, and Part IV in 1902.

The Private Streets Works Act was adopted in 1893.

## Bye-Laws—

New Streets and Buildings, sanctioned in 1881.

Nuisances, sanctioned in 1880.

Cleansing of Footways, etc., the Removal of House Refuse, etc., and the Cleansing of Privies, Ashpits, Cesspools, etc., sanctioned in 1880.

The Trade of a Tripe Boiler, sanctioned in 1883.

Pleasure Boats and Vessels, sanctioned in 1881.

Slaughter-houses, sanctioned in 1880.

Common Lodging-houses, sanctioned in 1880.

Hackney Carriages, sanctioned in 1880, 1898, 1899.

Public Bathing, sanctioned in 1902.

The Trade of a Tallow Melter, sanctioned in 1883.

Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops were adopted in 1902, and with respect to the user of the Foreshore and Sands, in 1901.

## THE HARBOUR.

An improvement in the system of sewer outfalls into the harbour is desirable in the best interests of a popular seaside resort, as the present system is apt to make a bad impression on visitors to the town. It does not fall within the province of this Report to suggest any particular scheme, but I think that the whole question should be thoroughly gone into.

I am not aware of any case of illness being traceable to the harbour conditions, and, therefore, they have not been a real menace to the public health.

The continued silting up of the harbour, however, threatens to interfere with proper sewage outfall.

## SEWERS.

A good deal of work has been done during the year in connection with sewers, but, in my opinion, they have not been adequately flushed out.

A separate Report on Sewers has been submitted to the Council.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A new, wooden building, with two wards, nurse's room and conveniences, has been erected to replace the one burnt down in 1919. There is now sufficient accommodation for fever cases.

I have again to report on the efficient and excellent work done by the Matron.

During the year a "Thresh" steam disinfecter has been installed on the Isolation Hospital premises, and bulky articles, such as beds and bedding, can now be dealt with.

### Summary of work done at the Isolation Hospital—

During the year the following cases were nursed at the Hospital:—

URBAN CASES—Diphtheria, 28. Scarlet Fever. 6.

RURAL CASES—Diphtheria, 9. Scarlet Fever, 10.

## HOUSING.

The remarks made by the late Dr. Reginald Farrar in his 1907 Report hold good, generally speaking, to this day, and the need of new houses of a small type becomes greater every year.

Owing to the almost complete lack of alternative accommodation, improvement in housing is rendered a most difficult matter. Defective houses, unless actually dangerous, cannot be condemned, and the work of overhauling and repairing houses can only be carried out spasmodically.

It appeared that the Government would aid substantially in the erection of new houses, and, relying on such aid, the Council acquired the Gallows Close Site of 41.64 acres, of which 11.36 acres were set out and approved for Housing Scheme for the erection of 98 houses of the A and B types. The ground was mapped out and planned, provision made for roads and drainage, tenders for materials were obtained, and, altogether, actual building was practically ready to be commenced but tenders for material, etc., were not approved by the Ministry of Health, and the scheme had to be abandoned for the present.

## DUST.

There has been far too much dust blowing about the streets during the past summer, and this nuisance should be mitigated by the free use of a suitable watering lorry. In addition to the discomfort caused to pedestrians and householders, foodstuffs in shops become contaminated by dust, especially in Baxtergate and Sandgate. I consider that these clouds of dust constitute a menace to the public health.

## MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

The new premises in Grape Lane for the Centre, which had been acquired by the Council, were formally opened by the Marchioness of Normanby on 6th July, and the commodious accommodation now provided has enabled better work to be done. Mothers in increasing numbers are taking advantage of the facilities afforded by the Centre, and they show great interest in the physical progress of their infants, as evidenced by records of weight, etc. It is pleasing to record the high standard of cleanliness of the children's bodies, which is a good index of the care bestowed on them. As many of the children's homes are sadly lacking in facilities for bathing, such cleanliness is all the more remarkable. The total number of infants brought to the Centre during the year was 1,232.

Great assistance has been given to the officials of the Centre by the Ladies' Association of Voluntary Helpers, and it is not too much to say that the work that is done at present could not be carried out without the kind and efficient help given by these ladies at each and every session.

First-class Maternity work has been done by Nurse Robbins, details of which will be found in her appended report.

Our new Health Visitor, Nurse Bamford, who succeeded Nurse Tate, has already won the confidence and esteem of all concerned by her excellent and tactful methods. I append also her report.



# REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR.

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December 31st, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
The Whitby Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

As I have so recently taken up the duties of Health Visitor in Whitby, I can do little more than present a list of figures chiefly of visits paid to homes, and the attendance of mothers and babies at the Welfare Centre during the year.

The figures are as follows:—

First Visit	Subsequent	Special Visits	Prospective Mothers
134	969	36	56
Tuberculous patients visited ...			65

## WELFARE CENTRE—

Sessions held	Mothers	Babies and young children
66	1,080	1,207
Prospective Mothers ...		32

The new premises in Grape Lane were opened early in the year, and with such splendid accommodation for the work and the valuable assistance of the Ladies' Voluntary Help Committee, I feel that the 'Welfare' is a steadily growing force for good amongst the mothers of the town, who attend in increasing numbers week by week for advice and to have their babies weighed.

The work is very encouraging and shows the splendid quality of the pioneer work which has been going on during the past few years. One finds the young mother eager for the advice of the Health Visitor, and I feel that the former prejudice which existed is really slipping away.

There is still much room for improvement in the methods of feeding and clothing, and in regard to the latter, I think the cause is due, in the majority of cases, more to lack of means owing to the present industrial condition, than to ignorance and carelessness.



The Ladies Committee have several schemes on foot, one of these being a Thrift Club, which it is hoped will be used as time goes on as a means of more easily providing the necessary woollen garments for the little ones.

### School Nursing.

The school work is steadily gaining ground. The mothers realising that the Nurse is out to help and advise, not to criticise and interfere. The teachers also appreciate the improvement in the cleanliness of the children attending school.

The School Clinic was opened in September, the premises in Grape Lane being used for the work. The Clinic is held on two mornings during the week, and is proving itself a very useful service.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CATHERINE BAMFORD,

Health Visitor.

## REPORT BY Miss A. G. ROBBINS, MIDWIFE.

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*To the Chairman and Members of  
The Whitby Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Second Annual Report of the work of the Maternity Department for the year 1921.

### Ante-Natal Work.

This branch of the work has grown. 139 expectant mothers were seen and advised with regard to their pregnancy, urine was examined, and when the birth promised to be abnormal, arrangements were made as far as possible for the confinement. 17 cases were under special observation, 11 of these cases came to the Clinic for advice and 6 were under the care of their own medical advisers. 11 applications were received for maternity beds. These cases, to my regret, had to be transferred to other towns, as there is no maternity bed available.

There is a Provident Club in connection with the Clinic, where mothers-to-be may put by a little money to buy suitable clothing for the coming baby. This Club will do good work when it becomes better known. I am pleased to say that cotton binders and shirts are almost a thing of the past. The necessity to clothe infants in wool, or at least a wool and cotton mixture, is much more generally realised.

### Midwifery.

During the past year 99 confinements were attended. In 12 of these cases the doctor was called in on account of the infants' condition, and 28 were attended by doctors either engaged or called in on behalf of the mother. Of these cases 24 were abnormal; 23 being cases of instrumental delivery, 5 complicated with bronchitis, 2 with pleurisy, 1 with appendicitis, one with pneumonia, and 2 with ante-partum hæmorrhage. All the cases recovered.

### Post-Natal.

Mothers were advised to bring their babies to the Clinic. Visits were paid to the homes and the mothers advised in any way I thought would be helpful to them, i.e., the extreme value of breast feeding, regularity in everything, the need for fresh air, cleanliness and suitable clothing. I am glad to say that breast feeding is almost universal amongst the Whitby mothers.

The following table gives a summary of visits I have paid re Child Welfare:—

Expectant Mothers	Nursing Visits	Post-Natal
788	1,573	755
Night Calls ... 74		

I have again to thank the Members of the Council, particularly the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, for their help and advice, also the Ladies of the Voluntary Committee who have given of their best.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. ROBBINS,

Midwifery Nurse.

## Amount of Shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the Year 1921.

(Form A).

Coastwise—		Number.	Tonnage	Number inspected.				
				By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Inspector of Nuisances.			
Steamers	...	46	...	1696	...	6	...	20
Sailing	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Fishing	...	25	...	793	...	—	...	6
Total	...	71		2489		6		26

Number reported to be defective—Nil.

Number of Orders issued—Nil.

Foreign Vessels—Nil.

None of the boats which entered the Port discharged any cargo, they either put in for shelter or for bunker coal.

There is no import or export trade carried on at the Port.

## Rats destroyed in 1921.

(Form B).

Nil.

## Plague Precautions : Measures against Rats.

(Form C).

Nil.

## LIST OF OFFICERS.

DR. J. G. ROSS, M.B., C.M., Medical Officer of Health  
(part time).

MR. O. E. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (whole  
time). Cert. Royal Sanitary Inst., as Inspector of  
Nuisances ; Cert. Royal Sanitary Inst., as Inspector  
of Meat and other Foods.

NURSE A. G. ROBBINS, C.M.B. (whole time).

NURSE C. BAMFORD, C.M.B. (whole time). Trained Nurse  
3 years. Cert. Hygiene, Queen Victoria Jubilee  
Institution.

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

### *Summary of Bright Sunshine at Whitby for the Year 1921.*

		Hours per Month.		Daily Mean.		Per Cent.
January	...	32.1	...	1.03	...	13
February	...	90.9	...	3.25	...	34
March	...	128.9	...	4.16	...	35
April	...	171.0	...	5.70	...	41
May	...	206.0	...	6.65	...	42
June	...	178.2	...	5.94	...	35
July	...	177.3	...	5.72	...	34
August	...	114.0	...	3.68	...	25
September	...	162.5	...	5.42	...	43
October	...	132.9	...	4.29	...	41
November	...	68.2	...	2.27	...	27
December	...	49.5	...	1.60	...	22
Mean for the year		126.0	...	4.14	...	33
Eleven year average			...	3.97	...	32

### *Air Temperature.*

The Air Temperature is obtained from Thermometers in a louvered screen four feet above the ground.

125 feet above M.S.L.

Temperature (degrees F.)

1921.	Mean of		Mean of A & B	Mean Range	Extreme Range	Absolute Max. and Min.			
	Max.	Min.				Max.	Day	Min.	Day
	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F		°F	
Jan.	48.7	39.1	43.9	10	28	57	9th	29	14th
Feb.	47.8	36.9	42.4	11	29	57	16-23-24th	28	2nd-3rd
March	52.8	38.5	45.7	14	33	65	24th	32	3rd-8-30th
April	53.2	39.0	46.1	14	39	66	2-12th	27	8th
May	60.5	43.8	52.2	17	43	78	25th	35	4th
June	63.8	47.6	55.7	16	47	84	25th	37	28th
July	69.5	52.9	61.2	17	44	84	11th	40	3rd
August	63.9	52.5	58.2	11	35	80	1st	45	16th
Sept.	65.3	49.3	57.3	16	38	79	8th	41	12th-25th
Oct.	64.2	49.4	56.8	15	40	79	6th	39	23rd
Nov.	46.5	37.1	41.8	9	31	60	4th	29	9th
Dec.	49.0	39.2	44.1	10	28	57	10th	29	5th

MEAN for the year, 50.5.

AVERAGE for 28 years (1887-1915) 48.2.

Coldest Night, April 8. Warmest Days, June 25-July 11.  
Coldest Month, November Warmest Month, July.



*Rainfall at Whitby.*

Rain Gauge—Diameter of Funnel, 8 inches ; height of top—  
above ground, 1 foot ; 125 feet above Mean Sea Level,  
Average Rainfall for 35 years (1881-1915) 24.73 inches.

Month.	Total Depth. Inches.		Greatest Fall in 24 hours. Inches.	Date.	Number of days with .01 or more recorded.	
January...	3.10	...	0.93	...	12th	14
February	0.25	...	0.10	...	25th	9
March ...	0.48	...	0.08	...	13th	12
April ...	0.85	...	0.26	...	24th	10
May ...	1.23	...	0.20	...	6-28th	13
June ...	0.22	...	0.10	...	22nd	7
July ...	1.51	...	0.47	...	22nd	12
August	3.96	...	1.01	...	29th	20
September	0.74	...	0.24	...	13th	8
October	1.87	...	0.81	...	22nd	12
November	2.32	...	0.99	...	5th	14
December	1.32	...	0.22	..	27th	16
	<hr/> 17.85 <hr/>					<hr/> 147 <hr/>

The Meteorological Report has been kindly supplied by  
Captain D. RAMSDALE, Prospect Hill.

Yours faithfully,

J. G. ROSS, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

# Annual Report of the Council's Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent for the year 1921.

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Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Council Offices, Whitby.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
The Whitby Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you a Report of the work performed in my Department for the year 1921.

As will be seen steady progress is still maintained in improving sanitary circumstances generally.

Throughout the year very many difficulties have been encountered, especially this being the case where property has been dealt with under the Housing and Town Planning Act, as in these cases inspections have revealed structural defects to such a degree as it is impossible to remedy them and render the houses fit without first emptying the houses of their occupants.

Owing to the scarcity of cottage houses and naturally lack of alternate accommodation, a great many houses are at the present time under notice for repairs but the work is standing in abeyance.

Another reason why progress has been slow is that several Owners who have been served with Notices to overhaul property, have found it utterly impossible owing to financial circumstances to comply. These Owners have invariably offered the property for sale and many blocks have changed hands, this of course causing delay in carrying out repairs. In all cases where such sales have been effected the purchasing owner has been informed of the Notices outstanding and have purchased it with a view to effecting the required repairs and alterations.

During the year 52 complaints were received regarding alleged nuisances, all of which received prompt attention.

Table 1 is a summary of the inspections made, etc.

Table 2 gives Details of Defects Remedied.

**TABLE 1.**

**Summary of Inspections.**

Factories and Workshops ...	...	...	23
Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	647
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	...	...	56
Bakehouses ...	...	...	23
Common Lodging Houses ...	...	...	1
Visits to property under observation		...	627
Re-visits to work in progress	...	...	485
Markets, Fish, Meat and Fruit Shops		...	105
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	540
Total ...			2507
Complaints investigated ...	...	...	52
Owners and Agents interviewed	...	...	121
Drains Tested ...	...	...	59
Houses Disinfected ...	...	...	58

**Certificates.**

Sanitary Certificates issued ..	...	...	2
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**TABLE 2.**

The following is a summary of defects found at the properties inspected under the Public Health Act during the year:—

Drains requiring re-construction ...	...	61
Drains requiring connecting with Main Sewer...	...	8
Drains not efficiently trapped	...	123
Drains requiring Ventilating Shafts ...	...	19
Defective Sink Pipes and Drains	...	16
Defective Yard Drains ...	...	1
Defective Cellar Drains ...	...	13
Defective Eave and Fall Pipes	...	8
Defective Roofings ...	...	11
Choked Drains Cleared	...	42
Defective Water Closets	...	9

Defective Floors ... ..	1
Waste Pipes requiring disconnecting ...	39
Fall Pipes requiring dsconnecting ...	24
To provide Eave and Fall Pipes ... ..	3
To provide Sinkstones in houses ... ..	10
To provide Ashes Bins ... ..	26
Nuisance from Stagnant Water ... ..	1
Nuisances from defective surface of Yard ...	27
Nuisance from Black Smoke ... ..	1
Nuisances from Poultry, Pigeons and Animals	4
Old Wells filled in ... ..	6
Offensive Accumulations .. ...	5
Ashpits and Closets requiring re-construction	11
Old Privies altered to Water Carriage System	9
Insufficient Closet accommodation ... ..	17
Houses overcrowded ... ..	1
Houses requiring Ventilation ... ..	1
Houses damp ... ..	1
Houses requiring Water Supply ... ..	3
Cowsheds requiring Lime-washing ... ..	14
Cowsheds requiring Draining ... ..	1
Cowsheds requiring Paving ... ..	1
<hr/>	
Total ...	517

**Closet and Ashpit Accommodation.**—Privy Middens predominate in the old part of the town, they are gradually being converted to the Water Carriage System at properties which warrant such conversions. Generally speaking, however, the majority of the old houses have had their day and are beyond repair, and do not warrant heavy expenditure in the form of sanitary improvements. Many of the houses are overcrowded and harbour two or more families at the present time, owing to the general scarcity of houses. There does not appear to be any prospects of a scheme for providing new artisan dwellings at the moment.

The following is a summary of the ashpit and closet accommodation, when all notices outstanding at the end of the year are complied with.

Fresh Water closets...	2,438
Privy middens ... ..	95
Moveable privy tins...	1,054
Dry ashpits ... ..	419
Ashes bins ... ..	1,355



**Bakehouses.**—There are, at the present time, 10 Workshop Bakehouses in the town, there are also 7 Factory Bakehouses. Frequent visits have been made throughout the year to these premises and they have been found to be well maintained and clean.

**The Manufacture of Ice Cream.**—During the Summer the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream was carried out on a somewhat extensive scale. Every endeavour will be made to ensure that this favourite commodity is manufactured under wholesome and hygienic conditions.

**Slaughter Houses.**—The Slaughter Houses registered and licensed are as follows:—

Registered	...	8	Licensed	...	3	Total—	11.
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We have not what could be called a good slaughter house in the town. In many cases the butcher's shop is the slaughter house, and several of these premises abut on the public footpath. 9 of these slaughter houses are situate on the East side of the town where the buildings generally are very congested.

The question of the provision of a Public Abattoir is one which has been brought before you on many occasions, and I cannot help but think that if such premises were provided, the town generally would appreciate the improvement over the present system which now prevails.

The premises are visited very regularly by me, and on the whole every endeavour is made by the occupiers to keep them clean and sweet.

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**—There are 24 registered cow-keepers within the district and bi-annual inspections have been made to these premises *re* the sanitary conditions. Several occupiers had to be warned during the year *re* overdue limewashing and cleansing.

Last year the Council decided to discontinue the Veterinary Inspection of Milch Cattle.

I hope the Council will re-consider the question of the inspection of Milch Cattle as it is a well-known fact that milk does in many cases contain the deadly Tubercular Bacillus.

I cannot again pass this without referring to the fact that it is not uncommon to find a cow slaughtered for human food to



be suffering from generalized Tuberculosis, such cow previous to being slaughtered having been producing milk on some local farm, such milk being retailed in the town.

A Veterinary Inspection if properly applied could do much to secure a healthy condition of affairs in our Cowsheds generally.

**Meat Inspection.**—The result of my endeavours in attempting to prevent the sale of diseased meat to the public have been warranted in that no less than 1 ton, 14 cwts., of such meat has been destroyed during the year.

The work of meat inspection occupies a great amount of my time under present conditions as slaughtering takes place at any time and in all parts of the town. With a Public Abattoir inspection would be much easier, the whole business of slaughtering and issuing of dead meat could be properly controlled and regulated, so also could the slaughtering on the farms which takes place and which we know is carried on in contravention of the law.

**Offensive Trades** —There are two Offensive Trade premises in the town which are regularly visited and kept in clean and satisfactory order.

**Common Lodging Houses.**—There is one registered Common Lodging House in the town. It is not an ideal building but it meets the requirements of the town, and it has been maintained throughout the year in a satisfactory condition. The total number of beds available for lodgers is 13.

**Factories and Workshops.**—46 Visits have been made to Workshops during the year. General defects have been found but such defects have been remedied on representation being made to the occupier.

One Notice from the Factory Inspector was received respecting defective closet accommodation at a Factory in the town, the matter received attention on representation to the owner.

**Infection and Disinfection.**—As will be seen from the Medical Officer's Report, 102 cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported during the year.

The infected houses have been disinfected after removal of the patient to hospital by spraying with liquid Formalin.

Disinfection of a similar kind is carried out at all premises where Tuberculosis is known to exist, and on the removal of a consumptive from one house to another, the house vacated is thoroughly disinfected before being occupied again.

**Food and Drugs.**—Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out under the direction of the County Council.

**Refuse Collection, Manipulation and Disposal.**—The work of scavenging the town is carried out by the Council's own staff under my supervision.

Previous to October, 1919, the whole of the house refuse was deposited in its crude form on farms outside the town.

This system gave rise to serious complaints in Summer time on account of the offensive smells from the refuse dumps, and from the unsightly appearance of the country lanes and hedges being littered with paper, etc., after heavy winds.

The Council gave me permission to erect a Screening Plant at California, together with a small Incinerator for burning refuse of no value.

During the last two years the refuse has been dealt with at this Screening Plant, all materials of value are removed and sold, waste refuse of no value is burnt and the fine ashes, manure, etc., which pass the screens is sold to farmers as a fertiliser, a steam wagon being employed daily in carting the screened material into the country.

The erection of the Incinerator has also proved to be a great boon to tradesmen in the town, as they can now deposit for destruction their refuse which previously was a great handicap to them.

The total sales of Manure, etc., from the Salvage Station for the year amounted to £476 18s. 3d.

The following summaries show the number of loads collected, treated and disposed of.

## DETAILS OF COLLECTION.

Loads collected and dealt with at the Salvage Station.						
		Town Refuse.		Trade Refuse.		Places Emptied.
January	...	264	...	10	...	13,602
February	...	262	...	10	...	13,747
March	...	313	...	11	...	17,286
April	...	249	...	17	...	13,809
May	...	240	...	15	...	13,779
June	...	221	...	9	...	13,725
July	...	298	...	22	...	17,158
August	...	262	...	16	...	13,741
September	...	319	...	28	...	17,169
October	...	231	..	11	...	13,728
November	...	253	...	8	...	13,735
December	...	319	...	17	...	16,356
Totals		3,231		174		177,835

## DETAILS OF DISPOSAL.

Treated Manure supplied to Farmers.							
	Loads deposited on farms within the district (untreated)		Loads delivered by steam wagon		Wagon Loads removed by Farmers		Cart Loads removed by Farmers
January	... 60	...	19	...	9	...	87
February	... 73	...	38	...	13	...	67
March	... 72	...	40	...	3	...	31
April	... 46	...	23	...	5	...	5
May	... 58	...	25	...	—	...	26
June	... 53	...	27	...	5	...	53
July	... 67	...	29	...	—	...	28
August	... 56	...	20	...	—	...	—
September	75	...	24	...	10	...	104
October	... 76	...	19	...	5	...	8
November	72	..	30	...	2	...	7
December	78	...	29	...	32	...	10
Totals		786	323	...	84	...	426

## HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	9
(b)	As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme					nil

### I—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

#### Inspection.

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	121
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...			33
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			1
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-headings) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	33

### II—Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	nil
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### III—Action under Statutory Powers.

A	Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.				
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...			33
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—				
	<i>a</i> By owner (work proceeding)	...	...		4
	<i>b</i> By Local Authority in default of owner				nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	nil



## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	21
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—	
	<i>a</i> By owners ... ..	14
	<i>b</i> By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
c.	Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.	
1.	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	1
2.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ..	nil
4.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	nil
5.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	nil

The Sanitary Inspector is the only officer engaged on this work. He also acts as Cleansing Superintendent, Petroleum Inspector and Hackney Carriage Inspector.

In concluding my report I beg to thank the Council and Health Committee for their kind consideration and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

O. E. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.